Drilling is proposed at the following places in Andhra Pradesh:—

1. Votlapalam
2. Vadali
3. Palletikurru
4. Chintalapalli.

Contract for IC process complex in Bombay High

25. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken regarding the contract for IC process complex in Bombay High;

(b) if so, the particulars of the party to whom the contract has been given for fabrication and installation of IC process complex and the terms and conditions of the contract;

(c) whether it is a fact that the contract has been given to the party on enhanced prices and not on the original prices as quoted by the party; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The contract for the turnkey completion of the ICP/ICW platforms has been awarded to M/s. Hyundai Heavy Industries at a cost of US $ 166,084,330 plus French Francs 24,880,710.

(c) and (d) The award of the contract could not be finalised within the validity of the original offer made by the firm as efforts were made for obtaining a counter-trade against this contract. The contract was subsequently awarded to this party with a counter-rade stipulation, at a higher price but still lower than the prices of the other bidders.

ONGC to set up joint research centre

26. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the O.N.G.C. propose to set up a joint research centre, the first of its kind, in collaboration with Schlumberger, a Paris-based firm to provide interesting techniques to collect seismic data for oil exploration and production in India and whether an agreement has been signed for this; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and also the reasons for selecting the particular firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The proposed centre will conduct research in wireline well logging to develop and improve wireline logging tools, techniques and softwares with the assistance of 'Schlumberger'.

(ii) The centre will have equity participation in the ratio of 60:40 between ONGC and Schlumberger.

(iii) The centre will be managed by a five member Board of Governors of whom three will be nominees of ONGC and two that of Schlumberger.

(iv) The centre will own all refinements/developments of new technology and Schlumberger and ONGC shall be entitled to commercially exploit these refinements,